

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete list of the claims now pending; this listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

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1. (Currently Amended) An image search apparatus for searching an image database for desired image data, ~~said the~~ image database storing a plurality of image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each of the image data, said apparatus comprising:

display means for displaying a plurality of image data as a search result, corresponding to an input search condition, obtained by a search of image data from the image database;

selection means for selecting image data designated by a user from the plurality of image data;

image feature amount computing means for computing an image feature amount of the image data selected by said selection means; and

image similarity computing means for computing image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed by said image feature amount computing means, and the image feature amounts of the image data stored in ~~said the~~ image database.

2.-5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display means comprises search means for searching for desired image data by designating attribute information appended to the image data, and
when a search is made by said search means, said display means displays a list of image data found by the search of said search means.

7.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An image search method for searching an image database for desired image data, ~~said the~~ image database storing a plurality of image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each of the image data, said method comprising:
~~a display step, of displaying a plurality of image data;~~
a selection step, of selecting image data designated by a user from the plurality of image data displayed as a search result, corresponding to an input search condition, obtained by a search of image data from the image database;
an image feature amount computing step, of computing an image feature amount of an image data selected by in said selection step; and
an image similarity computing step, of computing image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed in ~~the~~ said image feature amount computing step, and the image feature amounts of the image data stored in ~~said the~~ image database.

11.-14. (Cancelled)

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15. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ method according to claim 10, ~~wherein the display step comprises~~ further comprising:

a display step, of displaying the plurality of image data; and

a search step, of searching for desired image data by designating attribute information appended to the image data, and

wherein the display step includes a step of displaying a list of image data found by a search in ~~the~~ said search step, when the search is made in ~~the~~ said search step.

16.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable memory that stores a program code of an image search method for searching an image database for desired image data, ~~said the~~ image database storing a plurality of image data in correspondence with image feature amounts of each of the image data, said program comprising:

~~program code for a display step, of displaying a plurality of image data;~~

program code for a selection step, of selecting image data designated by a user from the plurality of image data displayed as a search result, corresponding to an input search condition, found by a search of image data from the image database;

program code for an image feature amount computing step, of computing an image feature amount of the image data selected ~~by in~~ said selection step;

program code for an image similarity computing step, of computing image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed in ~~the~~ said image feature

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amount computing step, and the image feature amounts of the image data stored in ~~said the~~ the image database.

20. (Currently Amended) An image search apparatus for searching an image database for desired image data, ~~said the~~ the image database storing a plurality of image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each of the image data, said apparatus comprising:

display means for displaying ~~a drawing area for drawing handwritten information, and~~ a plurality of image data searched on the basis of ~~the~~ input handwritten information ~~drawn in the drawing area;~~

selection means for selecting color information of image data designated by a user from the plurality of image data;

image feature amount computing means for computing an image feature amount of ~~the~~ an image drawn in a drawing area, which includes having ~~the~~ color information selected by said selection means; and

image similarity computing means for computing image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed by said image feature amount computing means, and the image feature amounts of the image data stored in ~~said the~~ the image database.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the color information is selected by indicating one pixel in the image data.

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22. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the color information is selected by indicating a predetermined region in the image data.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the color information designated by indicating the predetermined region is an average value of pixel values contained in the small region.

24. and 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the color information is selected on the basis of an image drawn on the drawing area.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said image feature amount computing means computes the image feature amount of the drawn image ~~every~~ each time the image in the drawing area is modified.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising display control means for controlling ~~to a display~~ of the drawing area within a display window displayed by said display means.

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29. (Currently Amended) An image search method for searching an image database for desired image data, ~~said the~~ image database storing a plurality of image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each of the image data, said method comprising:

~~a display step, of displaying a drawing area for drawing handwritten information, and a plurality of image data searched on the basis of the handwritten information drawn in the drawing area;~~

~~a selection step, of selecting color information of image data designated by a user from the a plurality of image data searched on the basis of input handwritten information;~~

~~an image feature amount computing step, of computing an image feature amount of an image drawn in a drawing area, which includes having the color information selected by in said selection step; and~~

~~an image similarity computing step, of computing image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed in the image feature amount computing step, and the image feature amounts of the image data stored in ~~said the~~ image database;.~~

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method according to claim 29, wherein the color information is selected by indicating one pixel in the image data.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method according to claim 29, wherein the color information is selected by indicating a predetermined region in the image data.

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32. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method according to claim 31, wherein the color information designated by indicating the predetermined region is an average value of pixel values contained in the small region.

33. and 34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method according to claim 29, wherein the color information is selected on the basis of an image drawn on the drawing area.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method according to claim 29, wherein the image feature amount computing step includes the step of computing the image feature amount of the drawn image every time the image in the drawing area is modified.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method according to claim 29, further comprising a display control step, of controlling to display the drawing area within a display window displayed in the display step.

38. (Currently Amended) A computer readable memory that stores a program ~~code~~ of an image search method for searching an image database for desired image data, ~~said the~~ image database storing a plurality of image data in correspondence with image feature amounts for each of the image data, said program comprising:

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~~program code for a display step, of displaying a drawing area for drawing handwritten information, and a plurality of image data searched on the basis of the handwritten information drawn in the drawing area;~~

~~program code for a selection step, of selecting color information of image data designated by a user from the plurality of image data searched on the basis of input handwritten information;~~

~~program code for an image feature amount computing step, of computing an image feature amount of an image drawn in a drawing area, which includes having the color information selected by in said selection step; and~~

~~program code for an image similarity computing step, of computing image similarity on the basis of the image feature amount computed in said image feature amount computing step, and the image feature amounts of the image data stored in said in image database.~~

39.-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ image data selected by said selection means is copied in a drawing area; and
wherein said image similarity computing means computes image similarity on the basis of an image feature amount, computed by said image feature amount computing means, of the image data copied in the drawing area, and the image feature amounts of the image data stored in ~~said the~~ image database.

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51. (Currently Amended) ~~The An apparatus according to claim 50, further comprising modifying means for modifying the image data copied in the drawing area;~~

~~wherein said image similarity computing means computes image similarity on the basis of an image feature amount, computed by said image feature amount computing means, of the image data modified by said modifying means, and the image feature amounts of the image data stored in said the image database.~~

52. (Currently Amended) ~~The An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said the plurality of image data displayed by said display means is displayed on the basis of image similarity computed by said image similarity computing means.~~

53. (Currently Amended) ~~The An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein said the drawing area and said the plurality of image data are displayed in the same window.~~

54. (Cancelled)
